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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

APRIL 27, 1953

MAY 23 1953

L A T E N E W S

Imports of cotton linters into the United States in February totaled 16,537 bales (of 500 pounds gross) including 10,064 from Mexico, 3,209 from the Soviet Union, 1,842 from Brazil, 905 from Western Germany, 457 from the Belgian Congo, and 60 from Peru.

United States exports of cotton linters in February totaled 18,539 bales (of 500 pounds gross) including 7,469 to Western Germany, 5,061 to Japan, 2,615 to France, 1,448 to the Netherlands, 1,069 to Canada, 450 to Belgium, and 427 to Switzerland.

The exportable supply of beans available in Chile is expected to be about 650,000 bags in 1953 according to late reports from the American Embassy, Santiago. This is 140,000 bags smaller than a previous estimate published in Foreign Crops and Markets, of March 23, 1953, on the basis of preliminary information then available. The proportion of exportable varieties in the crop is smaller than previously forecast.

The Chilean government has listed as surplus for export in 1953, 330,000 bags of arroz and 110,000 bags of crystallines and listed red Mexican, red kidney and "flageolet" beans as freely exportable. There probably will be about 20,000 bags of red kidney and 110,000 red Mexican. The flageolets variety is very minor, seldom being reported separately. In 1943, 3,000 bags of flageolets were exported, mostly to the United Kingdom. That is the latest information available on this variety. In 1952 exports of 575,000 bags of all varieties went 60 percent to the United Kingdom, 20 percent to Cuba and 7 percent to Germany. The remainder went in small shipments to many destinations.

(Continued on Page 395)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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UNITED STATES FOREIGN TRADE IN ONIONS

CURRENT TRADE

During the first 16 weeks of 1953, January 1 through April 18, the United States imported about 575,000 bags (50 pounds) of onions. This was 80 percent more than the 306,000 bags imported in the comparable 16 weeks of 1952. This year, as last, Chile was the principle source of imported onions, though not as large a proportion this year as last. In the first 16 weeks of 1952, 290,000 bags or 95 percent of the total imports came from Chile. This year 345,000 bags or 60 percent of the total came from Chile. This season Mexico supplied 68,000 bags against only 17,000 bags last year.

ONIONS: United States exports by countries of destination,
average 1935-39, annual 1948-52

Countries of destination	(50 pound bags)					
	Average	Annual				
	1935-39	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Cuba.....	423.5	664.3	760.4	1,039.4	772.2	779.2
Canada.....	155.0	100.3	409.9	741.2	532.0	808.1
Mexico.....	26.6	53.8	31.8	35.0	168.6	68.5
Philippine Republic.....	99.7	303.5	300.5	329.6	105.1	13.2
Venezuela.....	.7	36.7	42.6	63.6	28.2	.9
Panama, Republic.....	1/ 70.1	31.9	41.5	45.5	44.4	43.7
Panama, Canal Zone.....	2/	29.8	18.0	13.5	18.4	14.8
Dominican Republic.....	14.0	24.6	15.0	19.9	27.8	49.1
Netherland Antilles.....	4.5	15.0	16.4	15.3	13.5	6.2
Bahamas.....	3/	3.7	3.4	5.5	9.2	11.4
Bermuda.....	1.3	.4	.9	.0	.5	3.1
British Honduras.....	1.1	2.8	4.5	2.1	4.4	3.6
Columbia.....	1.6	4.1	.2	9.7	7.7	0
Costa Rica.....	2.6	8.4	3.1	9.2	11.2	10.2
French Oceania.....	3.1	1.1	3.8	7.7	12.2	5.8
Guatemala.....	1.8	.8	.2	.4	.7	1.1
Haiti.....	1.9	1.6	3.0	3.1	3.7	3.9
Jamaica.....	12.1	8.6	4.9	.7	7.4	32.0
Nicaragua.....	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.4	1.8
Others.....	54.0	7.2	24.1	18.0	13.3	24.3
Total.....	876.2	1,301.2	1,686.8	2,361.8	1,781.9	1,880.9

1/ Includes Panama Canal Zone. 2/ Included in Panama Republic. 3/ If any included in others.

SOURCE: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

Not only were imports 80 percent greater in the early part of this year than last but exports were 67 percent less. United States export data are available only for January and February. During these months 81,000 bags were exported or one-third of the 243,000 bags exported in January and February 1952. Exports dropped in 1953 to every one of the major customers. Cuba took only 4,000 bags this January/February as compared with 16,000 bags last year. Mexico took 9,000 against 11,000, Canada 44,000 against 159,000, Panama 2,000 against 13,000, Dominican Republic 5,000 against 8,000 and the Philippines none against 11,000.

ONIONS: United States imports by country of origin,
average 1935-39, annual 1948-52

(50 pound bags)

Country of origin	Average		Annual				
	1935-39	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	
	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>bags</u>
Chile.....	35.4	318.9	115.0	124.9	200.3	280.8	
Mexico.....	1.4	173.2	181.9	164.4	183.9	262.3	
Italy.....	55.4	39.6	43.2	72.1	71.0	57.9	
Canada.....	9.9	81.9	3.9	2.1	15.6	6.1	
Egypt.....	12.4	128.1	.5	.2	7.8	2.5	
Australia.....	2.1	221.2	.3	0	0	3.8	
New Zealand.....	0	23.9	0	0	0	1.9	
Greece.....	5.8	0	0	0	0	0	
Argentina.....	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	
Japan.....	2.1	0	0	0	0	0	
Hungary.....	0	0	19.3	12.0	0	0	
Spain.....	2.2	0	0	0	0	34.3	
Others.....	2.2	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.9	5.8	
Total.....	131.7	989.6	366.9	378.3	481.5	655.4	

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

SEASONALITY OF TRADE

While the United States imports and exports onions in every month of the year the movement both out and in is seasonal. Almost 60 percent of the imports in the 3-year period 1950-52 arrived in the 3 months February through April. Almost 60 percent of the exports went in the 5 months June through October with heaviest concentration occurring in September and October.

On the basis of past experience onion imports may be expected in the remainder of 1953 to drop sharply after April and continue less and less each month until November when they will slowly rise to a peak in February, March and April of 1954. Exports should pick up in May, reaching a peak in September and October.

HISTORICAL TRADE

United States foreign trade in onions usually totals about 2 million bags annually. About two-thirds of this is exports and one-third imports. The exports have gone to about 45 countries, mostly American, with a few relatively small shipments to Europe and the Far East. The most important destinations always have been Cuba, Canada and Mexico, usually in that order. In most years they have taken about 80 percent of the total. Imports have come from about a dozen widely scattered countries. The most important have been Mexico, Chile and Italy. These together have usually supplied about 90 to 95 percent of the total United States imports.

Exports: In 1952 the United States exported 1.9 million bags, of these 808,000 bags or 43 percent went to Canada, 780,000 or 41 percent to Cuba and about 70,000 or 4 percent to Mexico. The year 1952 marks the first season in history that Canada has taken more United States onions than Cuba has taken. Usually Cuba takes from 30 percent to 50 percent more per year than Canada. The Philippines has taken 300,000 bags or more in some years but usually less than 100,000 bags in a year. Of the 45 countries which import onions from the United States only about 19 countries are regular customers, buying United States onions every year. The larger of these includes Panama and Venezuela in addition to Cuba, Canada, Mexico and the Philippines. The 19 regular customers, some of which take very small quantities, annually take about 99 percent of total United States exports of onions. Thus more than half of the 45 historical destinations have been infrequent and unimportant importers.

Imports: The 1952 imports totaled 655,400 bags. Of these 280,800 bags or 43 percent came from Chile, 262,300 bags or 40 percent from Mexico and 57,900 bags or 9 percent from Italy. These 3 countries together with Canada and Egypt are the regular sources for United States imports every year.

Frequently, but not regularly, the United States imports onions from Australia. Sporadically onions have been imported from Argentina, Japan, Greece, New Zealand and elsewhere. Shipments from these latter countries usually have been limited. The 6 named regular countries, including Australia, usually supplies from 90 percent to almost 100 percent of total United States imports each year.--By Orval E. Goodsell.

BRITAIN PURCHASES 1.1
MILLION TONS OF CUBAN SUGAR

The Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute and the British Ministry of Food have recently signed an agreement whereby Cuba sells to the United Kingdom 1.1 million short tons of sugar at 2.75 cents per pound. As a result of this transaction, domestic rations in the United Kingdom will be increased after May 17, 1953 and, later in the year, sugar will be derationed entirely.

Cuba expects to ship 672,000 short tons of sugar to the United Kingdom prior to December 31, 1953. This quantity will be delivered against the 1953 crop, while the balance of the total sold will be delivered in 1954. This purchase by the United Kingdom virtually clears the Cuban world sugar quota of its remaining unreleased holdings. Of the original quota of 3.1 million short tons for the world market, there remains in the hands of the Institute less than 398 million short tons. This balance will be released immediately to the world market.

MOZAMBIQUE'S VEGETABLE OIL
OUTPUT INCREASING

Production of vegetable oil in Mozambique in 1952 was about 11,960 short tons, an increase of almost 60 percent from the 7,480 tons produced in 1951 but around 750 tons short of the 1945-49 average, reports Richard V. Fischer of the American Consulate, Lourenco Marques. Except for castor oil, all types of vegetable oil produced in 1952 made substantial gains from the quantities produced in the preceding year. Early reports on probable production for 1953 indicate further gains, particularly in cottonseed oil which has become the major source of edible oil. Although peanut production also is expected to increase, it is believed that the greater part of this crop will be used for food.

The principal vegetable oils produced in Mozambique in 1952 with 1951 output in parentheses were as follows: cottonseed-2,730 tons (2,580); peanut-2,250 (880); coconut-5,590 (3,000); mafurra seed-1,290 (850); sesame-70 (30); and castor-30 tons (140).

Domestic consumption of vegetable oils in 1952 consisted of 2,680 tons of edible oils, mainly cottonseed and peanut oils, and 1,650 tons of inedible oils. The latter oils were principally coconut and mafurra.

Exports of vegetable oils from Mozambique in 1952 totaled approximately 6,100 tons and included 1,300 tons of peanut oil, 4,021 tons of coconut oil, 704 tons of mafurra oil, 67 tons of cottonseed oil, and 12 tons of castor oil. It is believed that these export data are incomplete and therefore subject to revision.

Average prices received by exporters during 1952 were reported as follows: peanut oil-\$423 per short ton; coconut oil-\$208; mafurra oil-\$163; castor oil-\$395; and cottonseed oil-\$296.

CANADIAN RICE IMPORTS

DECLINE IN 1952

Canada's rice imports in 1952 declined moderately from the high level of the 2 years before and were at about the same rate as average imports before and during World War II (1936-45). All imports of uncleaned (uncleaned, unhulled, and paddy) totaling 54 million pounds were from the United States, and of the 18 million pounds classified as cleaned rice, 11 million pounds came from the United States, and 7 million pounds from Brazil.

CANADA: Rice imports, by country of origin, and total exports, averages 1936-50, annual 1950-52

Country of origin	Average	1936-40	1941-45	1946-50	1950	1951	1952
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Imports							
<u>Uncleaned 1/</u>							
United States.....	11.8	45.0	56.1	52.8	52.1	54.2	
India & Burma.....	25.4	.6	0	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong.....	5.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan.....	5.8	2/	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand.....	4.3	0	2.6	13.1	0	0	0
Egypt.....	1.2	0	2.0	9.9	6.4	0	0
Brazil.....	1.9	0.7	1.8	8.8	3.3	0	0
Other countries.....	1.4	3/ 8.7	0	0	1.1	0	0
Total.....	57.6	55.0	62.5	84.6	62.9	54.2	
<u>Cleaned</u>							
United States.....	5.5	6.3	2.1	4.9	10.9	11.1	
Brazil.....	0	0	0	0	33.0	7.1	
Other countries.....	4/ 8.4	1.8	2/	0	5/ 7.8	2/	
Total.....	13.9	8.1	2.1	4.9	51.7	18.2	
<u>Exports (Rice).....</u>	2.5	0.4	1.0	3.2	25.0	8.9	

1/ Uncleaned, unhulled, paddy. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 3/ Includes 7.6 million pounds from Mexico, and 1.2 from Dominican Republic. 4/ Includes 6 million pounds from Hong Kong. 5/ Includes 4.1 million pounds from Thailand and 3.5 million from Netherlands.

Source: Trade of Canada.

Canada has taken most of its rice imports from the United States since the early part of World War II, chiefly in the form of rough rice. From 1944 to 1949, all rice imports were from the United States. In 1950 and 1951, however, sizable quantities were imported from Thailand, Egypt, and Brazil.

A significant feature of Canada's rice trade in recent years has been a marked gain in reexports, which rose from 3 million pounds in 1950 to a high of 25 million pounds in 1951. In 1952 reexports totaled 9 million pounds. Reexports of rice in 1950 were virtually all to the United States; in 1951, all of the 25,000,200 pounds reexported were to the United States; and in 1952, 6,440,100 pounds went to that destination, 1,783,100 pounds to Bolivia, and 661,400 pounds to Venezuela.

COSTA RICA'S IMPORTS OF FATS AND OILS UP IN 1952

Imports of all fats and oils into Costa Rica in 1952 amounted to 4,983 short tons, as compared with 4,135 tons in 1951, reports David A. de Lima, Commercial Attache, American Embassy, San Jose. Principal commodities imported in 1952 were hog lard - 3,978 tons; soybean oil - 352; coconut oil - 133; cottonseed oil - 63; linseed oil - 68; and compound vegetable lard - 55 tons. All of the soybean and cottonseed oil, almost all of the hog lard, and about half of the coconut oil and vegetable lard came from the United States. The linseed oil was imported from the Netherlands, Canada and the United States.

Costa Rica's sole export of fats or oils in 1952 consisted of 5 tons of palm oil to Panama. This came from a domestic production of 714 tons last year, a sharp increase from the 85 tons of palm oil produced in 1951. A small part of the remaining 1952 production was sold locally, and the bulk has been sold to an American firm which has not yet taken delivery.

Domestic production of hog lard continued to decline in 1952, with about 890 tons produced compared with 960 tons in the preceding year. All of the 290 tons of coconut oil produced from indigenous copra went into the manufacture of soap. Because the crushing plant of Costa Rica's principal producer of vegetable oil burned to the ground in the spring of 1952, there was no way to obtain reliable figures regarding production of vegetable oils from minor oilseed crops, such as sesame, cottonseed, and peanuts. This production, however, has been estimated at between 75 to 90 tons.

HONDURAN PALM OIL PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHARPLY

Palm oil production in Honduras is expected to increase an estimated 50 percent to 1,500 short tons in 1953 as the existing plantations increase their output, according to Richard C. Desmond, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Tegucigalpa. Production was estimated at 1,000 tons in 1952 and 600 in 1951. In addition about 40 tons of palm kernel oil was produced last year.

Output of other vegetable oil-bearing materials in 1952 was estimated as follows with 1951 estimates in parentheses: copra, 2,200 tons (1,850); corozo kernels, 2,100 (2,880); and sesame seed 340 (380).

Reliable data on the production of animal fats in Honduras are not available. Rough approximations, however, place lard output last year at 4,500 tons compared with about 4,450 tons the previous year and butter production at 1,750 tons against 1,700 in 1951. The production of animal fats can be expected to increase gradually with the agricultural development of the country and the improvement of agricultural practices and animal husbandry methods which various official agencies are seeking to obtain.

Honduras is a net exporter of fats and oils with coconuts the major item of export. Some 7.8 million nuts were shipped--principally to the United States--in 1951-52 compared with 8.8 million in 1950-51. All other fats, oils and oilseeds exported in 1951-52 totaled about 310 tons compared with 510 in 1950-51. Imports were negligible in 1951-52 but amounted to 1,415 tons (largely butter from the United States) in 1950-51.

A new oil crushing plant intended primarily for handling cottonseed was installed near Tegucigalpa and started operation this season. In view of the restricted supply of raw material the output of this plant will, no doubt, remain relatively small. The oil produced will be used for manufacturing salad oils and similar products.

MOROCCO PROHIBITS OILSEED IMPORTS

Importation of oilseeds into the French Zone of Morocco, except under license granted by the Director of Agriculture, is prohibited by a Residential Arrete issued March 27, 1953.

Peanuts are obviously the target of this regulation, because Morocco produces an exportable surplus of inedible oilseeds. The purpose appears to be to guarantee the Moroccan market for edible oilseeds to French Zone peanut producers. Edible oil requirements in 1953 will approximate 13,200 short tons, following a mediocre olive oil crop. It is noted that the Residential Order of October 1, 1952, establishing a license-free import regime under the Hague Decision reserved the right to retain license requirements for imports of oilseeds, inter alia.

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS INCREASE 1/

World sheep numbers at the beginning of 1953 are estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at 817 million head, compared with 806 million head a year earlier, an increase of slightly over 1 percent. Current numbers are 9 percent above the 1936-40 average but only 4 percent above the wartime record number of 782 million head in 1942. World sheep numbers have maintained an upward trend since 1947; however, the rate of increase has slowed in the last year. Both cattle and sheep numbers at the beginning of 1953 were up slightly over 1952 while hog numbers were down somewhat.

(See table on next page)

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1948-1953

Continent and country	Month of estimate	Average		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
		Thousands	Thousands						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	Dec. 1 1/	2,651	1,681	1,587	1,322	1,259	1,268	1,016	1,105
Guatemala.....	July	273	665 1/	618	-	712	-	-	-
Mexico.....	Dec. 31 1 1/3 1/4	4,809	4,900	4,965	5,100	5,100	5,000	5,000	4,800
United States.....	Jan. 1	51,404	34,993	34,337	30,943	29,826	30,635	32,088	31,611
Estimated total.....		59,700	42,800	42,000	38,500	37,400	38,100	39,300	38,700
EUROPE									
Austria.....	Dec. 1 1 1/5	316 6/	419 6/	474 6/	454 6/	375	400	365	350
Belgium.....	Jan. 1 1 1/3	187	132	107	113	121	116	124	114
Denmark.....	July 15 1 2/	147	93	77	65	61	56	51	-
Finland.....	Mar. 1 1 7/	1,007	1,071	999	1,067 4/	1,207	-	-	-
France.....	Fall 1 1/	9,648 6/	7,257 6/	7,406 6/	7,510 6/	7,480 6/	7,511 6/	7,585 6/	7,662
Germany, Western.....	Dec. 1 1 1/5	1,889	2,274	2,352	2,492	2,020	1,642	1,666	1,544
Greece.....	Dec. 31 1 1/5	8,304	6,698	7,056	6,631	6,337	6,793	7,348	7,907
Iceland.....	Dec. 31 1 1/8	624	462	454	445	402	416	400	-
Ireland.....	June	3,076	2,229	2,058	2,183	2,385	2,616	2,857	-
Italy.....	Jan. 1	9,650	9,600	10,130	10,366	10,295	-	-	9,950
Netherlands.....	May	636	459	425	464	390	360	383	-
Norway.....	June 20	1,742	1,716	1,629	1,736	1,812	1,929	1,987	2,010
Portugal.....	Dec. 31 1 1/6 1/3	3,890	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1 1/3	20,000 5/	22,500	-	24,921	-	26,000	27,000	-
Sweden.....	Summer	398	368	349	311	279	261	257	-
Switzerland.....	April	177 5/	189	-	-	182	191	-	-
United Kingdom.....	June	26,112	19,032	18,164	19,493	20,430	19,984	21,655	-
Yugoslavia.....	Jan. 1 1 1/	9,796 5/	9,000	-	-	10,042	10,273	10,416	10,400
Total above.....		97,700	87,800	88,900	92,800	93,700	94,400	97,600	100,000
Other Europe.....		26,100	21,400	21,300	23,100	24,000	24,200	25,000	25,500
Total Europe.....		123,800	109,200	110,200	115,900	117,700	118,600	122,600	125,500
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)									
	Jan. 1 1 3/	66,000	67,700	64,800	74,000	78,000	86,000	90,000	90,000
ASIA									
Cyprus 10/.....	March	300	302	291	304	287	- 1/	295	-
Iran.....	Mar. 21	14,497	12,800	13,200	11,100	13,572	14,672	16,200	17,000
Iraq.....	Mar. 31 1 5/	7,090 5/	7,323	-	7,055	7,490 11/	9,000	10,000	-
Syria 10/.....	Dec. 31 1 1/5	2,060	2,963	3,176	2,843	2,443	3,250	3,805	-
Turkey.....	Dec. 31 1 1/	21,656	24,053	24,580	25,840	23,073	23,083	25,245	26,535
China 12/.....	May	26,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India.....	Jan. 1 1 2/	41,000 5/	38,200	-	-	38,900	-	39,975	-
Indonesia.....	Dec. 31 1 1/5	1,614 5/	1,675	-	-	1,740	-	2,008	-
Pakistan.....	Jan. 1 1 3/	8,000 3/	6,150	6,150	-	-	-	8,000	-
Estimated total.....		152,600	148,800	150,200	149,700	150,500	156,200	162,700	165,500

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina.....	July	50,000	45,000	47,000	50,500	51,500	51,000
Bolivia.....	Dec. 31 1/2	2,608 3/4	4,000	-	-	-	-
Brazil.....	June	11,438 5/8	14,413	-	1/14,251	-	17,000
Chile.....	Dec. 31 1/2	5,855	6,050	6,328	6,000	-	-
Colombia.....	Dec. 31 1/2	916 5/8	1,110	1,013	1,198	-	-
Ecuador.....	Dec. 31 1/2	159	1,480	1,802	-	-	1,600
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31 1/2	17,852	254	275	202	216	200
Peru.....	May	17,931	21,600	22,600	18,518	18,200	-
Uruguay.....	Dec. 31 1/2	100,900	117,500	119,900	115,600	126,200	129,000
Estimated total.....							

AFRICA

Algeria 10/.....	April	3,105	3,839	4,531	5,321	-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.....	Dec. 31 1/2	2,500 5/8	5,375	5,500	-	-	-
Kenya.....	Dec. 31 1/2	1,780 5/8	2,263	3,300	2,445	-	-
Tanganyika.....	Mar. 31	1,285 5/8	1,018	1,037	1,066	-	-
Uganda.....	February	1,443 5/8	1,630	-	1,564	-	-
Basutoland.....	June	1,771 5/8	1,786	1,800	1,729	1,760	-
Egypt.....	Dec. 31 1/2	9,976	7,939	7,423	9,149	10,375	10,960
French Morocco 10/.....	Dec. 31 1/2	8,674	9,000	9,100	9,700	-	-
French West Africa and Togo	Dec. 31 1/2	193	171	158	204	244	-
Madagascar 10/.....	Dec. 31 1/2	84	63	65	70	74	-
Mozambique.....	Dec. 31 1/2	36	36	36	-	-	-
Northern Rhodesia.....	Dec. 31 1/2	310	312	286	307	316	-
Southern Rhodesia.....	Dec. 31 1/2	2,972 5/8	2,622	2,628	-	-	-
South West Africa.....	Dec. 31 1/2	3,026	2,010	1,812	1,885	-	-
Spanish Morocco 10/.....	August	39,899	31,542	31,908	31,361	32,000	-
Tunisia 10/.....		99,700	98,200	98,100	101,900	110,500	113,300
Union of South Africa.....							
Estimated total.....							

OCEANIA

Australia.....	Mar. 31	112,571	103,261	102,559	108,735	112,891	115,596	117,647	119,000
New Zealand.....	April 30	31,352	32,973	32,483	32,845	33,857 1/4	34,786 1/4	35,297 1/4	35,600
Estimated total.....									

Estimated world total..... 746,700 : 720,400 : 720,300 : 724,700 : 747,900 : 780,200 : 806,000 : 816,700
 1/ End of year estimates (October-December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1947 estimate of 1,587,000 head is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Census or estimates for single year. 4/ June. 5/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ Spring. 9/ Census, December 31, 1940. 10/ Data include only number taxed. 11/ A new series of estimates was inaugurated by the Directorate of Veterinary Service in 1951. 12/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan).

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.-April 1953.

Sheep numbers are estimated to have increased in the major wool producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere with the exception of Argentina where it appears emphasis is being given to cattle raising. Sheep and beef cattle compete directly for feed and resources in these countries and as indicated only small increases are estimated for both classes. The steady increase in world wool prices during the past 12 months has favored increases in sheep numbers.

Slaughter has been heavy in most countries but losses due to natural causes have been less than usual allowing an actual increase in over-all numbers.

In Australia, for example, where slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1952 was up about 27 percent over 1951, numbers on March 31 were up 1 percent to a postwar record of 119 million head. The largest increase over 1952 in the more important sheep countries was in Uruguay. Ten months ago marketing prospects for wool appeared bleak and no increase in numbers was expected in that country. In the interim, however, most of last year's clip has been marketed alongside current production at prices considered favorable and numbers are estimated to have increased about 6 percent to about 28.5 million head. This is an all-time high and is nearly 60 percent above prewar. Numbers in New Zealand and South Africa have increased only slightly. In the former dairy and beef cattle are receiving increased attention and in the latter any anticipated expansion was limited by drought.

Stock sheep numbers in the United States on January 1, 1953, estimated at 27.9 million head, were 1 percent below the 28.1 million head a year earlier and 22 percent below the 1942-51 average of 35.9 million. They were 44 percent below the record high reached in 1942 and 6 percent above the record low reached on January 1, 1950. Total sheep numbered 31.6 million head at the beginning of the year. Decreases were noted in the Western States while numbers increased by about 4 percent in the Native States. In Canada numbers increased 9 percent over a year earlier but are still only 42 percent of prewar after a postwar decline similar to that which took place in the United States.

In Europe, 1953 sheep numbers are 1 percent over the 1936-40 average, marking the first year of complete recovery since World War II. Spain and the United Kingdom, the most important sheep countries in Western Europe, show increases of about 4 percent while in Greece an increase of 8 percent is noted. Limited information on sheep numbers in the U.S.S.R. and other Eastern European countries, points to increased emphasis on sheep raising. Numbers are judged to be somewhat above prewar after substantial gains were made in some countries in the past year.

Small increases are reported in North Africa and the Near East and numbers in India, China and other areas in Asia are estimated to have been maintained or show some small increase, reflecting the improved world market for coarse wools.

For 1953, the more favorable outlook for wool prices is likely to encourage another small increase in world sheep numbers. However, the pressure for meat, which leads to heavy slaughter of sheep and lambs and holds beef raising in a good competitive position, precludes any increase of the magnitude experienced in the period 1947-51. Because of the hazards of the sheep raising industry in many countries, the expected gain and some of the increases of the last few years could be quickly changed by drought or other abnormal conditions.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

AUSTRALIA REVISES WHEAT ESTIMATE

Australia's 1952-53 wheat harvest is now officially estimated at 193 million bushels, according to the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. Estimates of the crop have risen progressively throughout the season, with the current estimate of 193 million bushels contrasting with last year's small crop of 160 million bushels and earlier-season expectations of only about 165 million bushels for this season. A crop of the size now estimated provides about 100 million bushels for export after deducting requirements for domestic use and carry-over. The country's export quota under the International Wheat Agreement is 88 million bushels for the current season.

Latest revised estimates for the 1952-53 crop, by States follow:

State	: Acreage : for grain	: Yield : per acre	: Production	: Deliveries to : the Wheat Board : to February 14
	: <u>1,000 acres</u>	: <u>Bushels</u>	: <u>1,000</u> : <u>Bushels</u>	: <u>1,000</u> : <u>Bushels</u>
New South Wales...	2,660	: 21.1	: 56,000	: 51,106
Victoria.....	2,275	: 22.2	: 50,500	: 46,820
Queensland.....	700	: 24.4	: 17,100	: 16,711
South Australia...	1,465	: 23.2	: 34,000	: 31,555
Western Australia:	3,000	: 11.7	: 35,200	: 31,255
Tasmania.....	6	: 26.8	: 161	: 32
Australian Capital Territory.....	1	: 10.0	: 10	: -
Total.....	10,107	: 19.1	: 192,971	: 177,479

The estimated area sown for grain, at 10.1 million acres was the lowest for any peace-time year since 1923-24 and is 22 percent less than average sowings for the 5 years ended 1938-39. Acreage seeded for next season's crop is expected to be up about 20 percent over the low acreage this season, if weather permits.

Quality and weight of the current season's crop are high. A "fair average quality" (f.a.q.) standard weight per bushel has been fixed for the principal producing States. This is the basis on which all export sales are made. Current standards with comparisons with the past 2 seasons are shown.

State	Weight per bushel		
	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
New South Wales.....	61 1/2	63	64
Victoria.....	62 1/2	64	64.75
South Australia.....	64 1/2	63	63
Western Australia.....	64 1/2	62 1/2	64.75

ARGENTINA ANNOUNCES 1953-54 GRAIN PRICES

Prices to be paid to Argentine producers of small grains for the next crop (1953-54) were recently announced. The set prices for grain of export grade are the same as for the present season for wheat and flax, the two most important crops. Prices for barley and oats have been reduced from the present rate, and rye increased slightly. Prices were quoted in pesos per 100 kilograms for bagged grain, delivered at ports.

Equivalent dollars per bushel converted at applicable rates of exchange for grain show wheat and flaxseed to continue at the present rate of \$2.72 and \$3.30 per bushel, respectively. The price of oats will be \$1.02 per bushel, compared with the present rate of \$1.10. The barley rate of \$1.82 per bushel compares with the present price of \$1.87. Rye, at \$2.18 per bushel, will be the only increase, comparing with \$2.13 for the present season.

According to the first reaction in the grain trade, there is not likely to be any appreciable change in the area sown to small grains as a result of the new price schedule, though farmers had hoped for generally increased prices to offset increased production costs.

No price for next season's corn has yet been announced. The present rate paid by the Government is \$2.29 per bushel with a 1/2 percent bonus to farm cooperatives. This is for bagged corn on track at the port.

CANADA'S GRAIN OUTLOOK

The grain outlook for Canada's Prairie Provinces in 1953 is summarized as follows by the American Consulate General, Winnipeg.

The outlook for the 1953 Prairie grain crop is not very encouraging.

Soil moisture reserves are below normal throughout the greater part of the grain-growing region and critically short in the southern sector of the Prairies, the heaviest producing area. In contrast to last year when moisture reserves throughout the West were 136 percent of normal, this year they stand at only 83 percent of normal; 69 percent of normal in Alberta, 84 percent in Saskatchewan, and 77 percent in Manitoba. However, while the lack of adequate moisture reserves tends to give the 1953 crop picture a somewhat gloomy outlook, with better than average rains during the growing season, a fair crop could be harvested.

The weather during the past month has been mostly cool and unsettled but moisture conditions are better than they have been since last September. Quite a number of heavy snowfalls have occurred in recent weeks which have provided much needed moisture for the topsoil, and improved prospects for early pastures. While snowcover is still present in varying amounts throughout the central and northern sections of the grain-growing region, the southern Prairies are bare and spring field work has begun in scattered areas of all three Provinces. Although isolated reports of wheat seeding are now being received, operations are not likely to make much headway for another three to four weeks.

ARGENTINE WOOL MARKET ACTIVE IN MARCH

The Argentine wool market was very active during March, with prices of coarse wools rising during the last days of the month, according to John A. Hopkins, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Exporters had become bullish and believed that Argentine stocks of coarse wools were much lower than previously supposed. The Wool Federation announced that a survey would be made of wool stocks in the hands of members on April 1. Completion of the survey was, however, delayed and was expected to be finished shortly after April 10.

The Korean peace overtures changed the feeling of the market. Inquiries from the United States fell off sharply, so that there were very few representative price quotations on sales to the United States by April 10. Prices of Buenos Aires coarse fleeces f. & s. Boston were reported at 48 to 49½ cents per pound, greasy basis.

Interest in sales to France and Japan have picked up. Sales of fine crossbreds and medium crossbreds to France were reported to be made, or in negotiation by April 10 at rates corresponding to Australian prices. Buenos Aires merchants are expecting an important volume of sales to France on account of the trade agreement with that country. They are also hoping for sales of about \$9,000,000 worth of wool to Japan during the second quarter. The outcome depends partly on the results of the trade agreement between Japan and Argentina which is in process of completion.

Exports: The Buenos Aires Herald reports total shipments of 49.6 million pounds in February and 236.4 million pounds from October 1, 1952 through February. Approximately half went to the United States. During the same five months period in 1951-52 corresponding exports to all destination were only 20.1 million pounds. Shipments to principal countries of destination were as follows:

Country	Feb. 1953	Oct. 1951 through Feb. 1952	Oct. 1952 through Feb. 1953
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
United States	22.1	15.1	115.7
United Kingdom	9.4	0.1	51.6
Belgium	5.5	0.2	27.2
France	-	0.6	0.1
Japan	2.9	1.0	6.0
Other	9.7	3.1	35.8
Total all destinations	49.6	20.1	236.4

U.K. REDUCES STOCKPILE PURCHASES

The Ministry of Materials has announced that they are further reducing the rate of wool purchases for the United Kingdom strategic stockpile during the current season to June 30 and that no purchases are contemplated during the next (1953-54) season.

The objective for 1951-52 season purchases was originally set at 40 million pounds clean basis and this was later raised to 48 million pounds in February 1952. In June of 1952 it was announced that stockpile buying by the United Kingdom Government in the 1952-53 season would continue at approximately the 1951-52 rate. However, on February 6, 1953 it was announced that purchases were being reduced about one-third below the previous rate.

There was no statement as to whether strategic considerations had been met but the Ministry did indicate that in view of the surprising tightness in wool supplies consumers would welcome the diminution in stockpile buying.

ETHIOPIA'S OILSEED EXPORTS EXPECTED TO DECLINE

Ethiopia's oilseed exports are expected to decline this year as a result of smaller oilseed production in 1952 and falling prices, reports C. T. Breaux, American Embassy, Addis Ababa. High oilseed prices in 1951 had stimulated increased production, which was noticeable in the 1952 exports in spite of the fact that prices dropped considerably during the latter part of that year. With European prices as they are now (and Ethiopian oilseeds go largely to Europe) most Ethiopian oilseeds cannot compete when they have to bear the following costs: Ethiopian \$42 per metric ton (U.S. \$15.36 per short ton) export duty; \$42 per ton (\$15.36) rail freight to Djibouti; \$10.50 per ton (\$3.84) transit fee in Djibouti, and \$35 per ton (\$12.80) ocean freight.

Neuk seed (niger seed) oil is the favorite edible oil in Ethiopia. However, when the export price for neuk seed is more favorable than the price for flaxseed, some of the latter is crushed and mixed with neuk seed oil. One company expected to have new machinery for refining edible oils installed before now and to be exporting large quantities of that oil in tins but that action has been delayed.

Informed trade sources have estimated last year's oilseed production, and the following represent an average of several estimates: peanuts 1,100 short tons; sesame seed 2,200; flaxseed 19,840 (708,600 bushels); neuk seed 22,000; castor beans 7,700; and rapeseed 5,500 tons. Small quantities of soybeans, sunflower seed, melon seed and caraway seed also are produced.

Exports for the calendar years ending December 9, 1951 and 1952 were as follows:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>Commodity</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
	(short tons)			(short tons)	
Flaxseed	8,623	17,872	Castor beans	2,337	4,960
Sesame and			Other oilseeds	119	273
neuk seed	8,997	15,454	Edible oil	342	607
Peanuts	333	568	Oilcake	4,269	6,020
Rapeseed	4,427	3,854			

Most oilseeds go to Europe, principally Italy, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Belgium.

ZANZIBAR'S EXPORTS OF COPRA, COCONUT OIL INCREASE

Zanzibar exported 6,005 short tons of coconut oil, 2,713 tons of copra, and 5,243 tons of copra cake during 1952 (through December 19), reports D. J. Bleecker, American Consulate, Mombasa, Kenya. This compares with 1951 figures of 5,833 tons of coconut oil, 25 of copra and 1,606 tons (second 6 months only) of copra cake.

Contract agreements with the British Ministry of Food have favored the production and exports of coconut oil over copra. New grading rules to improve the quality of exported copra came into force in July 1949. As a result no copra was exported in 1950 and only 28 tons were shipped in 1951. With the improved quality of copra, however, exports of both copra and coconut oil have increased.

Copra producers and exporters agreed with the oil millers in early 1952 not to export more than 22½ percent of a year's copra production with the remainder allocated among the oil millers. Because of the realization of the value of producing high quality copra, the industry is expected to play an increasingly important part in the economics of the Protectorate.

U.S. IMPORTS OF OILSEED
MEALS CONTINUE LARGE

Net imports of oilseed cake and meal into the United States in the 5-month period October 1952-February 1953 totaled 209,162 short tons. This is 6 times greater than net imports of 35,924 tons in the corresponding period of 1951-52 and nearly 70 percent of the net quantity imported in the year beginning October 1951.

It is unlikely that imports in the 7-month period beginning March 1953 will be at the same high rate as in the preceding 5 months because of the decline in prices of oilcake and meal in this country in recent months. This is substantiated, in part, by the fact that net imports in both January and February of 1953 were considerably below those of the preceding 3 months. Also, net imports in February--only 16,781 tons--were some 4,000 tons less than comparable imports in February of last year.

Exports of oilcake and meal from the United States during October 1952-February 1953, the smallest since the war years, totaled only 9,144 tons and consisted mainly of soybean meal to Cuba and Canada.

UNITED STATES: Net trade in oilseed cake and
meal, by kind, year beginning October 1,
1949-51, monthly, October 1952-February 1953 1/

(Short tons)

Year and : month :	Copra :	Cotton- seed :	Linseed :	Peanut :	Soybean :	Other :	Total
1949.....	56,485:	-18,831:	-1,683:	-42,673:	-21,312:	32,219:	4,205
1950.....	65,762:	76,779:	-28,224:	-22,890:	-148,279:	16,203:	-40,649
1951.....	<u>2/</u> 103,818:	<u>2/</u> 167,003:	16,277:	3,005:	-17,649:	31,132:	<u>2/</u> 303,586
1952.....	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
October..	12,462:	32,470:	2,731:	1,678:	3,833:	14,951:	68,125
November..	8,593:	21,160:	7,922:	1,350:	5,222:	14,460:	58,707
December..	13,005:	15,066:	2,360:	376:	6,483:	4,982:	42,272
January..	6,919:	10,654:	1,489:	12:	2,565:	1,638:	23,277
February..	2,500:	9,585:	2,003:	11:	2,308:	374:	16,781

1/ Minus sign (-) indicates net export. 2/ Revised.

Compiled from Bureau of the Census data.

The large quantity of oilcake and meal imported in the year beginning October 1, 1951--389,684 tons--resulted partly from high prices and short supplies in the United States. Exports during this period totaled 86,098 tons.

In the crop year 1949-50 imports were 230,555 tons, but exports were 226,350 tons. In the following year, 1950-51, imports of 207,158 tons and exports of 247,807 tons resulted in a net export figure of 40,649 tons.

Imports of oilseed cake and meal in the 5-month period under review and principal sources were as follows: Cottonseed-89,054 tons (Mexico-39,259 tons, Argentina, Turkey, Peru); copra-43,479 (Philippines); soybean-29,426 (Canada); linseed-16,515 (Argentina-11,589 tons, Canada); other-36,405 (Argentina). In the 12-month period October 1951-September 1952, countries of origin for the various imported oilcakes and meals were approximately the same as the above.

**DENMARK'S FAT AND OIL REQUIREMENTS
EXPECTED TO BE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR**

Denmark's fat and oil requirements for the current year are expected to remain about the same as in 1952, with a slight increase possible, reports John B. Sjo, Economic Officer, American Embassy, Copenhagen. Estimated consumption last year consisted of some 180,000 short tons of oilseeds, nuts and kernels for crushing, 38,000 tons of butter, 8,000 tons of lard, and 38,700 tons of marine oils.

Production of oilseeds in 1952 was up from 1951 and stocks of most products increased. Imports consisted mostly of oilseeds and whale oil. Denmark produces a large exportable surplus of animal fats, mostly in the form of butter and lard. When possible, imports in 1953 will continue to be from nondollar areas. In 1952 Danish imports of United States soybeans were about 17,160 tons, although actual purchase was made via other European countries.

The 3 oilseeds grown in Denmark-rape, flax, and mustard-yielded about 26,500, 5,500 and 6,000 tons, respectively, last year. Butter production was placed at 168,650 tons and around 19,000 tons of lard were produced. Tallow output figures are not available but production was probably about 2,000 tons. Marine oil production data are not available for 1952. In 1950 and 1951 output was around 4,000 tons.

The oilcake requirement for feed is high, and since Denmark has a large crushing capacity, large quantities of various oilseeds are imported annually. In 1952 imports were 147,840 tons, a substantial decrease from the 179,000 tons imported in 1951. Oilseed imports last year largely consisted of 39,655 tons of soybeans, 71,940 tons of copra, and 13,418 tons of palm kernels. Of the soybeans purchased about 17,160 tons were of United States origin and the balance Manchurian. Imports of other fats and oils are varied. However, of the 33,673 tons imported last year about one-half was whale oil.

Exports of butter in 1952 were 128,579 tons and of lard 10,251 tons. Under the present agreement the United Kingdom took 75 percent of the butter export or 96,775 tons. Of the lard exported, Western Germany as the principal buyer took 6,235 tons.

Under present import regulations, individual importers in Denmark cannot import fats and oils. Imports and prices of fats and oils are controlled by the Government. All imports are pooled, and an average price is calculated that covers all types of fats and oils. Thus the purchasers pay the same price for all fats and oils used. However, some sources believe that in 1954 fat and oil importation will be freed.

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN OLIVE OIL ESTIMATE DOWN FROM EARLY FORECAST

Olive oil production from the 1952 olive crop in the Mediterranean Basin is slightly lower than the first forecast had indicated, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Output is now estimated at 755,000 short tons--considerably less than one-half the record 1.6 million tons of oil produced from the 1951 olive crop. While 3 percent less than the first forecast (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 22, 1952), oil production is substantially larger than the short outturns of 1948 and 1950. The estimates represent the total oil pressed including allowances made for consumption by growers in countries reporting only commercial production.

A sharp reduction from the record volume of oil produced from the 1951 olive crop was to be expected as 1952 was the "off" year in the two-year cycle typical of olive production. In addition, however, 1952 was characterized by unfavorable weather and excessive insect damage.

In 9 of the 14 countries included in this summary, oil production declined from 15 to over 70 percent with the most significant drop in Spain. Decreases in Spain, Italy, Greece, and Portugal, normally the origin of 80 percent of the total Mediterranean Basin output, ranged from 50 to almost 70 percent. Production in Algeria and Syria is believed to have continued the same as the previous year while production in Turkey, Libya and Israel increased markedly.

Spain, the world's largest producer of olive oil, has an estimated production of only 250,000 tons following the record outturn of 770,000 tons last year. With substantial stocks carried over from last season's abundant crop, however, officials estimate that supplies will be sufficient for domestic requirements until the new crop becomes available. Similarly, most of the other Mediterranean countries had a sufficient carry-over to supplement this season's low outturn.

A less active export market may be expected in 1953 in view of the small production and the general practice in most countries of maintaining emergency stocks. However, Algeria with production at last season's level, may have an exportable surplus of around 12,000 tons, and Greece, in spite of a decline of one-half in production, expects to permit the exportation of 5,500 tons of oil. This marks the first time in the postwar period that sizable shipments have been authorized from Greece. In Turkey, where production is up 50 percent, domestic demand has kept prices too high for profitable exportation.

(See table on next page)

This is one of a series of regularly schedule reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Estimated production in the Mediterranean Basin,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1949-1952

(Short tons)

Country	Average		1949	1950	1951	1952 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
EUROPE						
France.....	8,000:	7,000:	11,500:	9,000:	13,000:	7,000
Greece.....	131,500:	132,540:	247,500:	42,000:	155,200:	78,300
Italy.....	256,000:	189,800:	220,000:	188,500:	389,700:	200,000
Portugal.....	64,000:	67,460:	108,600:	44,200:	117,000:	57,600
Spain.....3/	357,400:	365,200:	427,600:	200,000:	770,000:	250,000
Yugoslavia.....3/	5,900:	4,020:	7,400:	800:	3,200:	900
MIDDLE EAST:						
Israel.....4/	7,000:3/	2,500:	2,000:	1,000:	200:	1,500
Syria.....	(12,500:	14,900:	11,000:	4,400:	5,500:	5,500
Lebanon.....		7,200:	7,700:	2,200:	6,500:	5,500
Turkey	44,000:	38,000:	42,000:	50,000:	40,000:	60,000
AFRICA						
Algeria.....	20,000:	17,600:	19,500:	20,500:	28,000:	28,000
French Morocco:3/	13,000:	14,660:	16,500:	13,000:	27,000:	13,000
Tunisia.....	49,300:	42,300:	115,700:	44,000:	50,000:	38,600
Libya.....	2,600:	3,000:	9,000:	8,500:	4,000:	9,000
Total.....	971,200:	906,180:	1,246,000:	628,100:	1,609,300:	754,900

1/ Total oil pressed from olives grown in the years indicated; excludes oil extracted from residue. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of less than 5 years. 4/ Territory formerly known as Palestine.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

INDIA'S COTTON CROP ESTIMATE REVISED UPWARD

The 1952-53 cotton crop in India is now estimated by trade sources at 2.8 to 2.9 million bales (of 500 pounds gross) or about 100,000 bales higher than an earlier estimate of 2,750,000 bales. The 1951-52 crop was estimated privately at 3.1 million bales. The 1952-53 cotton acreage is estimated at approximately 16,175,000 acres (based on the Indian Government's third estimate) against 16,213,000 acres a year ago.

The cotton situation in India in the first quarter of 1953 was featured by a continued high rate of mill consumption, increased exports, light imports, and a steady but moderate rise in prices. The existence of unusually large stocks of cotton in India at the beginning of the current season apparently had a bearing on the decrease in imports and the relaxation of export controls on several varieties of Indian cotton.

Statistics on mill consumption available through November 1952 show mill consumption of 1,211,000 bales for August-November, compared with 1,064,000 for a similar period in 1951. Export demand for cotton textiles recently received a stimulus by a reduction in the export tax from 25 percent to 10 percent. Continuation of the rate of consumption shown above for the remainder of the 1952-53 year would result in an increase of nearly 350,000 bales over last year's total of 3,275,000 bales. An additional 220,000 bales is usually estimated for annual consumption by cottage industries.

Imports during the 6 months ended January 31, 1953, totaled 237,000 bales compared with 387,000 during a similar period a year ago and 1,006,000 in all of 1951-52. Imports are normally much lower in the first half of the season than in the last half because most of the local crop which supplies around 75 to 80 percent of annual mill requirements arrives on the market during those months. Also, new-crop supplies from overseas sources are not available in large volume until the middle of the first half of the season. Most of the decrease in imports thus far this year was in imports of United States cotton, 232,000 down to 72,000 bales. Imports from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan declined from 39,000 to 22,000 while those from British East Africa rose from 50,000 to 79,000 bales. No imports are expected from Pakistan this year because prices in terms of Indian currency are higher than those for similar cotton from other sources.

In contrast, cotton exports during August-February 1952-53 rose to 188,000 bales from only 1,600 bales during the corresponding 7 months in 1951-52. This increase is attributed to relaxation of export controls early in the current year following last year's large harvest and record import volume. Export quotas for 1951-52 were not announced until mid-season and actual exports of 123,000 bales were only about two-thirds of the amount allocated for export. Over 80 percent of this year's export quota of 163,000 bales (200,000 Indian bales) of Bengal Desi has been sold. Some other types are not subject to export control but exports of most medium and long-staple cotton are prohibited. A shortage of interior transportation is reported to be delaying movement of cotton to the ports for export. The principal destinations of India's cotton exports during August-February 1952-53 are Japan 101,000 bales, United States 18,000, Belgium 13,000, Netherlands 12,000, United Kingdom 10,000, and 9,000 each to France, Italy, and Western Germany.

Prices of Indian cotton have followed a gradual upward trend since mid-January 1953 when the spot quotation for Jarila, Fine, at Bombay was equivalent to 17.06 cents a pound and Broach Vijay, Fine, was 19.08 cents. The export tax, equivalent to 10.76 cents, was additional for exported cotton although exports of these two varieties are not permitted. Quotations for these varieties on April 16, 1953, were equivalent to 19.00 cents for Jarila and 21.50 cents for Broach Vijay. The export tax is unchanged except for a slight decrease in the exchange rate of the rupee.

Prices of exportable varieties are not available regularly.

L A T E N E W S

(Continued from Page 324)

The following is an example of how cotton export transactions are arranged under the present system of import entitlements in Egypt:

- (a) The Egyptian importer orders goods to the value of, say, £1,000 from his Principals and obtains from the latter a proforma invoice for this amount.
- (b) The importer makes an arrangement either direct with a cotton exporter who holds an Import Entitlement Account, or through a Bank, for the purchase, at a premium, of an amount of £1,000 of Import Entitlement Account. He then applies to the Import Licensing Office for a permit, stating, at the same time, the value of the goods in the currency concerned, i.e., United States or Canadian dollars, or pounds sterling, as well as the corresponding value in Egyptian pounds at the official rate.
- (c) The premium, which varies but at present averages 11/12 percent, is paid by the importer to the cotton exporter, or the Bank or to any other holder of Import Entitlement. This is borne in due course by the consumer.
- (d) The foreign importer of the cotton pays the full value of the cotton in the currency concerned, less the discount allowed by the Egyptian exporter. This discount is at the moment between 5 and 10 percent.

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